CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A system for managing patient care, the system comprising:

a portable information device having a identifier recognition mechanism;

a patient machine readable identifier; and

a patient task list for an identified patient, wherein the task list becomes automatically available upon recognition of the patient machine readable identifier by the scanning device.

2. The system of claim 1, further comprising a caregiver machine readable identifier attached to a caregiver badge.

3. The system of claim 1, further comprising a central information system including patient data, wherein the portable information device includes wireless communication tools for verifying patient data with the central information system.

4. The system of claim 1, further comprising a central information system including caregiver data, wherein the portable information device includes wireless communication tools for verifying caregiver data with the central information system.

5. The system of claim 1, wherein the patient task list comprises instructions for administration of at least one medication.

6. A method for managing patient care comprising:

recognizing a patient machine-readable identifier;

matching the patient machine-readable identifier with a patient task list; and

providing the task list to a caregiver.

7. The method of claim 6, further comprising providing a task list including at least one medication administration task.

8. The method of claim 7, further comprising recognizing a medication machine-readable identifier and matching the machine-readable with a medication from the task list.

9. The method of claim 8, further comprising recording administration of the medication.

10. The method of claim 6, further comprising recognizing a caregiver identifier.

11. The method of claim 6, further comprising implementing a portable information device with an embedded scanner for scanning the patient machine readable identifier.

12. The method of claim 11, further comprising transmitting the patient identifier from the portable information device to a central information system.

13. The method of claim 12, further comprising verifying patient identity through information available in the central information system.

14. The method of claim 13, further comprising receiving current patient related tasks from the central information system at the portable information device.

15. The method of claim 13, further comprising using the portable information device to obtain a caregiver identifier, transmitting the caregiver identifier from the portable information device to the central information system, and receiving verification of the caregiver identity from the central information system at the portable information device.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein obtaining the caregiver identifier comprises scanning a machine-readable identifier using an embedded reader in the portable information device.

17. A task-based system for managing patient care, the system comprising:

a central information system having a database including patient data;

a patient identifier for identifying a patient; and

a portable information device having tools for reading the patient identifier and accessing the central information device to obtain the patient data, wherein the central information system includes an application for dynamically generating a task list upon obtaining the patient data.

18. The system of claim 17, further comprising a caregiver machine-readable identifier attached to a caregiver badge.

19. The system of claim 17, wherein the portable information device includes wireless communication tools for verifying patient data with the central information system.

20. A method for facilitating task performance by a caregiver, the method comprising:

verifying a caregiver identifier and a patient identifier using a portable information device;

generating a task list for the identified caregiver and the identified patient; and

individually recording performance of each task.

21. The method of claim 20, further comprising using a portable information device with a scanner to scan the caregiver identifier and the patient identifier.

22. The method of claim 20, further comprising transmitting the caregiver identifier and the patient identifier from the portable information device to a central information system.

23. The method of claim 22, further comprising verifying patient identity through information available in the central information system.

24. The method of claim 20, further comprising dynamically generating the task list at the central information system and sending the task list to the portable information device.

25. The method of claim 20, further comprising obtaining a medication identifier from an identification device including a bar code identifying a particular medication.